

Ian's first birthday arrived, and as the first of eventually 3 boys, I learned really fast that candles and a 1 year old don't mix.

Freaked out by the flame, but totally enthralled by the chocolate gooey homemade frosting, Ian proceeded to make a mask out of chocolate icing. This moment is ever etched into my memory because I had the good sense to take a picture and not to let the moment evaporate.

So began the beginning of piles and piles of birthday memorabilia pictures.

I love those pictures. They transport me back in time that won't return when my devilish little boys crawled around in diapers and little else while discovering carpet fur and snails.

I got a call from Margaret. Her sentiments are typical. "I've got at least five years of memories are stuffed into a giant box that sits on the floor of my home office. It is filled with overwhelming piles of photos that I'm truly terrified to tackle".

Getting these precious memories into a safe yet accessible place is not impossible, however, it didn't get into this pile over night and it won't go away with a wave of a magic wand. It will take lots of 30-minute segments to conquer and recapture the meaning behind "why we keep what we keep". The good news is that with a professional photo organizer beside you, the work *will* get done. The best part is that you don't have to wait till you're a grandparent to finally accomplish this.

Take baby steps. Every half hour you put into it, you'll feel a great sense of relief. Because of technology and the ease of modern cameras, we all take more photos. But a great starting point is beginning with the physical pictures stuffed in boxes. They take up a lot of space and will lose their vibrancy if not properly stored and cared for.

Where to do this and what system you use is a varied as there are photos in your pile, but a photo organizer can come to your rescue and help you determine which one is best suited to your environment and needs.

For organizing digital images getting to know the tools on your computer can be transformative. Photo book programs are cropping up everywhere now, and another service an organizer can provide is to help you ascertain

which one is best for you too.

Evan's first cardboard sculpture of the back-to-the-future car will be ever remembered. This will not only bring a smile to *his* face, but hopefully one day to his wife and children. After all, sharing our lives and leaving our picture legacy is what our time on earth is made of.

Hiring a photo organizer can be one of the best investments of your life.